

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 9 (Currently amended): Process for the remelting of glass bars, ~~with the following features comprising the following steps:~~

introducing a glass bar is introduced into the an upper end of a receiving shell;
providing a molten bath having a surface underneath the receiving shell ~~there is made available a molten bath with a surface;~~

positioning the receiving shell is positioned in such manner that its a lower edge of the receiving shell is located at the height of the surface or above it;

the heating a lower end of the glass bar is heated to a temperature above the a softening temperature of the glass, resulting in a melt-off process at the lower end of the glass bar to produce a melt stream;

controlling the melt-off process is controlled in such manner that ~~a continuous~~ the melt stream continuously enters the molten bath proximate the surface with avoidance of a constriction; and

drawing off melt is drawn off from the molten bath by means of an arrangement for drop generation.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): Process according to claim 9, further comprising a crucible unit in which the receiving shell is disposed, characterized in that the ~~melting-off~~ melt-off process of the glass bar is performed by ~~the one of~~ coupling of electric energy into the crucible unit, ~~or by~~ radiation heating elements, ~~or by~~ and burner heating.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): Process according to claim 9, characterized in that the ~~glass throughput~~ amount of the glass melt-off is controlled by ~~the means that~~ altering at least one of the following parameters ~~is altered:~~

by adjusting the amount of the supplied energy supplied to the heating of the molten bath;

Application Serial No. 09/748,974
Amendment dated December 11, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated September 10, 2003

by varying the spacing between the ~~under~~ lower edge of the receiving shell and the liquid surface of the molten bath; and
~~by a~~ choking of the glass stream emerging from the bath.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): Process according to claim 9, characterized in that each of the glass bars ~~used have in each case at least one end which closes off with~~ includes an end surface shaped as one of a convex form ~~or with~~ and a flat surface, in order to avoid an inclusion of gas ~~at the bar to bar impact point~~ in between the end surfaces of adjacent glass bars.